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CANARY ISLANDS.

Case of plague on the steamship Duca di Galliera at Barcelona; also on the steamship Espagne at Marseille.

[No. 186.]

TENERIFFE, CANARY ISLANDS, *July 16, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to report that the Italian steamship *Duca di Galliera*, from Buenos Ayers, put in at Grand Canary, where she took coal, landed and took passengers. When she arrived at Barcelona plague was discovered on board and she was ordered in quarantine.

The French steamship *Espagne*, also from Buenos Ayres, stopped at this port for coal, and on her arrival at Marseille bubonic plague was discovered on board and she was sent to quarantine quarters. The above 2 cases have given the inhabitants of these islands a quiet scare, on account of the quarantine regulations, which I reported in my dispatch, No. 172, dated April 22, 1902, having not been strictly enforced.

Respectfully,

SOLOMON BERLINER,
United States Consul.

THE ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE.

CHINA.

Reports from Hongkong—Plague and cholera diminishing in Hongkong, but prevalent in the north.

HONGKONG, CHINA, *July 1, 1902.*

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended June 28, 1902. Eleven vessels were inspected, 444 individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 489 bundles of clothing and bedding were disinfected by steam. The cholera situation in this city continues to show great improvement, but 2 cases and 2 deaths having been reported during the week. This makes a total of 362 cases and 318 deaths from this disease thus far this year. Unofficial reports from the Canton district indicate that the disease is subsiding. Reports from the coast cities in the north of China indicate that the disease is especially severe. The local papers state that the foreign population of Shanghai has suffered to a considerable extent.

I respectfully inclose a letter from Dr. Anna K. Scott, of the Baptist mission at Swatow, which describes the conditions in that district.

There was a slight improvement in the plague situation in this city during the week, 44 cases and 42 deaths having been reported. This makes a total of 373 cases and 364 deaths thus far this year. One case of enteric fever and 1 case of smallpox, the latter terminating fatally, were also reported to the sanitary board.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,
Assistant Surgeon.

THE SURGEON-GENERAL.

[Inclosure.]

SWATOW, CHINA, *June 15, 1902.*

SIR: In compliance with your request for information concerning the prevalence of Asiatic cholera in the Swatow district, I have now to report that the disease has been

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on a steady increase during the past month. Most of our cities have been visited by the epidemic, there being many cases and the disease taking a rapid and fatal course.

At the present writing there is a marked improvement in the cities, but the villages in all directions are suffering severely—the epidemic spreading far and wide. In the port of Swatow there is now but little of either plague or cholera.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KEER,
Assistant Surgeon, Hongkong, China.

ANNA K. SCOTT, M. D.,
American Baptist Mission, Swatow.

June 25, 1902.

Since writing my letter of the 15th instant there has been a fresh outbreak of cholera in Swatow. Yesterday Mr. Mathieson Brown, of Messrs. Butterfield & Swire, succumbed to the disease after an illness of twelve hours. I am informed that many of the Chinese are dying of it within the past four days.

A. K. SCOTT.

HONGKONG, CHINA, July 7, 1902.

SIR: I have the honor to transmit herewith the abstract of bills of health issued at this station during the week ended July 5: Thirteen vessels were inspected, 806 individuals were bathed at the disinfecting station, and 1,043 pieces of baggage were disinfected by steam. There were 9 rejections during the week because of fever. One of the bills of health was issued to the British steamship *Austrasia* July 3, after disinfection of the crew and their living apartments. This vessel had a case of cholera develop among the crew while in this port, which was removed to the infectious-disease hospital June 5, 1902.

A few cases of cholera continue to occur in the colony, 9 cases and 6 deaths having been reported during the week. Of the total cases reported, 4 were Chinese, 3 were Japanese, 1 an European, and 1 an Indian.

Information received from Shanghai and Hankow during the week indicate that those ports are being visited by severe epidemics, and that the disease has spread to the surrounding villages and country. The Japanese steamship *America Maru*, of the San Francisco lines, was quarantined here July 3 because of a case of cholera which developed in the steerage after leaving Shanghai.

Thirty-two cases of plague and 31 deaths and 1 case of smallpox and 1 death were also reported during the week. One of the plague cases was landed from the P. and O. steamship *Valetta*, carrying the outward English mail. During the past two days 2 other cases have been removed to Kennedy Town hospital suffering with plague, and other cases are under observation. I am informed that many cases of illness developed after the ship left Singapore and that on arrival here many dead rats were found in the vessel. This vessel had lain in Bombay for some months prior to this voyage.

Respectfully,

JOHN W. KERR,
Assistant Surgeon.

The SURGEON-GENERAL.

Cholera at Niuchwang.

[No. 129.]

NIUCHWANG, CHINA, June 26, 1902.

SIR: I have to confirm my telegram of this day:

SECRETARY OF STATE, Washington, D. C.: Cholera.—MILLER.

The first appearance of cholera was on June 6, brought into port by a British steamship that brought 1,500 coolies here from Taku. Every